

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /047 W  
-----074491 051215Z /53

R 050830Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8717  
INFO CNO WASHDC  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WASHDC//ASD:ISA(NESA)/DSAA-TS-TC//  
COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHDC  
CHNAV MAT WASHDC  
COMNAV SUPS YS COM WASHDC  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK  
COMIDEASTFOR  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4/7//

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5336

CNO FOR OP-63E; NAVSEA FOR 04G; NAVMAT FOR 08F; NAVSUP FOR 033

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS IR  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR LOA (NO. 78-107) FOR TWENTY 20 MM MACHINE  
GUNS AND ONE 81MM MORTAR/50 CAL MACHINE GUN FOR THE IIN

REF: 77 STATE 207984, DTG 310241Z AUG 77 (NOTAL)

1. ARMISH-MAAG RECEIVED FOLLOWING LETTER DATED MARCH 5  
FROM THE GOI DEPUTY MINISTER OF WAR FOR ARMAMENT. QUOTE:  
IIN INTENDS TO PURCHASE THE WEAPONS LISTED AND THEIR  
ACCESSORIES REQUIRED. REQUEST THAT NECESSARY ACTION BE  
TAKEN TO PREPARE AND DELIVER THE OFFER CONCERNED.  
DESCRIPTION-TWENTY 20MM MACHINE GUNS, SINGLE BARREL, MK4,  
MOD 5; THIRTY-FOUR 20MM MACHINE GUN MOUNTS, TRIPOD, MK10,  
MOD 28; TWENTY 20MM MACHINE GUN SPARE BARRELS; AND  
THREE YEARS RESERVE SPARE PARTS SUPPORT. END QUOTE.  
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2. THE IIN INTENDS TO REFIT TWENTY MK III 65 FT  
PATROL BOATS TO INCLUDE 20MM GUNS AS ON-BOARD ARMAMENT.  
PRESENT ON-BOARD ARMAMENT CONSISTS OF FOUR 50 CAL  
MACHINE GUNS. THROUGH USE OF THE 20MM MACHINE GUNS  
IIN AIM IS TO IMPROVE THE MK III 65 FT PATROL BOATS  
CONTRIBUTION TO IRAN'S DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY.

3. THE MK III 65 FT PATROL BOAT ESSENTIALLY HAS A COASTAL PATROL MISSION. ITS USE DOES NOT RELATE TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY ARMS CONTROL IMPLICATIONS.

4. THE 20MM MACHINE GUN IS ALREADY IN THE IIN INVENTORY. ADDITIONAL MACHINE GUNS REQUESTED WILL NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THIS INVENTORY. THE 20MM GUN HAS THE POTENTIAL OF EXTENDING THE RANGE AND FIREPOWER OF THE MK III 65 FT PATROL BOAT SIGNIFICANTLY OVER PRESENTLY INSTALLED ARMAMENT. THE RANGE OF THE 20MM MACHINE GUN IS APPROXIMATELY THREE TIMES THAT OF PRESENTLY INSTALLED ARMAMENT WITH A MUCH MORE POWERFUL EXPLOSIVE PROJECTILE. THE 20MM MACHINE GUN IS EMPLOYED ON SIMILAR US CONFIGURED PATROL CRAFT.

5. THE IIN HAS A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF TRAINED/QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE 20MM MACHINE GUN. NO INCREASE/DECREASE CAN BE EXPECTED IN THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE AMERICANS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THIS SALE.

7. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON EITHER USG OR GOI IS CONSIDERED NEGLIGIBLE. UP TO DATE DIRECT/INDIRECT COST DATA NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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AVAILABLE IN-COUNTRY.

8. PROPOSED SALE DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

9. IN 1974 THE IIN WAS GIVEN A LIST OF ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL ARMAMENT (INCLUDING THE 20MM MACHINE GUN) AVAILABLE FOR THE MK III 65 FOOT PATROL BOATS. IN FEBRUARY 1975 THE IIN DECIDED NOT TO OPT FOR ANY OF THE ADDITIONAL ARMAMENT AT THAT TIME. IIN HAS NOW REASSESSED THE 65 FOOT PATROL BOATS DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY AND DECIDED TO INCREASE THE ARMAMENT OF EACH BOAT WITH THE ADDITION OF A 20MM MACHINE GUN. MISSION AGREES WITH THE CURRENT IIN ASSESSEMTN WITH RESPECT TO ENHANCING THE QDEQUACY OF THE DEFENSIVE CAPACIY OF THESE PATROL BOATS, AND THERE FORE RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF THE SALE.

10. NE SUBJECT: DMOWA HAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT SUBJECT LOA INCLUDE ONE 81MM MORTAR (MK2, MOD 0/1)/50 CAL MACHINE GUN COMBINATION, WITH ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT. THE 81MM MORTAR 50 CAL MACHINE

GUN COMBINATION IS TO BE USED FOR TEST AND EVALUATION PURPOSES ONLY. IIN IS CONSIDERING ITS POSSIBLE USE ON THE MK III 65 FT PATROL BOAT, AND DESIRES TO EVALUATE THE SYSTEM PRIOR TO MAKING A DECISION. NEITHER THE 81MM MORTAR NOR THE 50 CAL MACHINE GUN APPEAR ON THE MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT LISTING CONTAINED IN MUNITIONS CONTROL NEWSLETTER NO. 51.

11. THE PURCHASER AS ENTERED ON THE LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE SHOULD BE GOVERNEMENT OF IRAN, VICE MINISTER OF WAR, TEHRAN, IRAN.

12. REQUEST A LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE BE PREPARED AND TWELVE (12) SIGNED COPIES BE FORWARDED TO: CHIEF, CONFIDENTIAL

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ARMISH-MAAG, ATTN: ARACM, BOX 200, APO NEW YORK 09205.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MACHINE GUNS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 05 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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